(e) the details of proposal for grant of permission to new airlines pending for more than six months; and

(f) the steps being taken to clear these proposals promptly by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) As part of its liberalization policy and to improve the utilisation of traffic rights by the Indian side, Government decided to permit private scheduled airlines having continuous 5 years operations in domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft to operate on international routes except to UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

(e) and (f) As per the eligibility condition only Jet Airways and Air Sahara qualify for international operations amongst the domestic private scheduled airlines at present. These airlines have already been permitted to operate on international routes.

Joint Venture between SIAEC and Indian Airlines

2136. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral agreements on Aviation sector between India and Singapore;

(b) whether Singapore International Airlines Engineering Company (SIAEC) have recently withdrawn from the Joint Venture (JV) with Indian Airlines on setting up of the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility; and

(c) if so, the main reasons for withdrawal from the planed JV of MRO facility and whether it will hit the Indian Airlines in their growth programmes and if so, the steps being taken to revive the JV by Government at the highest level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Air Services Agreement between India and Singapore was signed on 23rd January, 1968. Since then bilateral air services talks were held from time to time to review the air services matters by signing MOU/Agreed Minutes, the last round of which was held on 23-24 August, 2005. As per the present air services arrangement between two countries, the designated airlines of both sides are entitled

to operate nearly 16,760 seats/week. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore and 18 tourist destinations in India are available as points of call for the designated airlines of Singapore and Singapore is a point of call for the designated airlines of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Air service agreements with Belgium and Holland

2137. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have updated its existing air services agreements with Belgium and Holland;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of frequencies that are going to be operated under the new agreements with Belgium and Holland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Air Services Agreements with Belgium and Holland were updated during the recently held bilateral talks with the respective Governments during May, 2005.

(c) In case of revised India-Holland Air Services Agreement, the designated airlines of both sides are now entitled to operate up to 14 services per week, which will be further increased to 21 services per week from Summer 2006 schedule. Similarly, under revised India-Belgium air services agreement, a maximum of 21 services/week can be operated by the designated airlines of both sides between the points in India and Belgium.

Operation of main runways at Mumbai and Delhi airports

2138. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main runways at Mumbai and Delhi International Airports have not been fully operational since August, 2005 leading to delays and disruption of flights; and

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same and the period of unavailability of main runways at these airports during the year 2005?